Steps to the DNR Rule Process

- 10 Following approval by the Standing Committees, the rule is returned to DNR and the signed rule is filed with the State Revisor of Statutes and becomes law upon publication.
- 9 Following Natural Resources Board approval, rules are sent to the Legislature for review. There, the Chief Clerks forward copies to the Presiding Officer of each House who, in turn, assigns the rule to the appropriate Standing Committee.
- 8 After each hearing, DNR recommends action to the Natural Resources Board only on items listed on the DNR portion of the Spring Hearing Questionnaire as follows:

NRB Current

Following

MeetingYear RulesYear RulesMayDeer Rules EffectiveFishing & Other

after November 1. Game Rules

August Migratory Bird Rules from

Federal Framework.

7 - April (2 $^{\rm nd}$ Monday) – Fish and Game Rule Hearings are held in each county. The Conservation Congress meetings are conducted in conjunction with these formal DNR hearings to collect public opinion on future rule proposals. $^{\rm 1}$

6-January-DNR hearing proposals (Spring Questionnaire) are presented to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) for final approval.

- 5 January Conservation Congress Executive Council approves advisory proposals from study committees, these are then added to DNR's hearing agenda as advisory questions.
- 4 October/November/December Preliminary proposals developed for public hearing by Fish Management, Wildlife Management with help from Law Enforcement, Legal Services and Research. Conservation Congress² Study committees evaluate county suggestions receiving a favorable vote at last April's hearings.
- 3 September/October Rule proposals reviewed by various functions impacted by rule.
- 2 Suggest Recommendations screened, approved and forwarded to Madison.
- 1 July/August Department personnel review past year's Conservation Congress recommendations, petitions, county resolutions, experiences and suggestions.

¹ The Conservation Congress is a citizen group created by law to provide advice to the Natural Resources Board on Conservation Matters. The Conservation Congress members are elected during the annual fish and game hearings. Most rule recommendations received on the floor of the public hearings or by mail to DNR are referred to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for study and evaluation. Those proposals that receive a favorable recommendation from the Congress are placed on the Congress portion of the Spring Questionnaire to poll public opinion the following year.

² Standing Committees have 30 days to either approve the rule or call for meetings with the DNR or public hearings. The meetings or hearings are to be held within 30 days, but if changes are requested, negotiations with the DNR may extend beyond these time frames.